

CREATIVE ENGINEERING

INCORPORATED

HOME OF ELECTRONIMATIONTM

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TELEPHONE: (407) 425-1001
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December 7, 1998

Ms. Cheray Diggs
Auditor
Health Care Financing Administration
IRS/SSA/HCFA DATA MATCH PROJECT
C/o Data Match Contractor
P. O. Box 1811
New York, N. Y. 10023-0550

Re: Melvin A. Fechter (self)
251221713A

Dear Ms. Diggs:

I am 77 years old, my employer Creative Engineering, Inc., has fewer than twenty employees, and there is no question that Medicare is my primary insurance. Medicare has acknowledged as much. Yet, you doggedly and repeatedly insist that Medicare is my secondary insurance and prohibit Medicare from paying claims that it now knows it should pay. The process of getting my records corrected with Medicare, and now with you, whom Medicare has identified as creating the roadblocks, has extended over a year.

If I were more paranoid, I would believe someone in your agency is perpetrating a cruel hoax on me individually for some sadistic and personal delight, but a far more plausible explanation presents itself. Your agency is astonishingly, incredibly incompetent, overzealous perhaps in the performance of what it deems the protection of the public purse but absolutely insensitive to the wrongful havoc it is wreaking on the emotions of hundreds of thousands of overage citizens who are dutifully paying their Medicare premiums from meager incomes and properly expecting promised insurance coverage. You have adopted a pattern of obstinately refusing to correct your records, ignoring information supplied to you by Medicare and by my employer, and repeatedly requesting, or pretending to request, information that has already been provided. I do not doubt that many thousands, giving up in despair upon your repeated denials of their proper claims, are accepting your wrongful, false and erroneous denials as authoritatively correct, and are submissively paying those claims themselves, to do so doing without food and needed medicine and health care. I am myself delaying cataract surgery, not knowing what bitter harvest my health providers and I will reap when they properly file for my Medicare benefits.

Your most recent incredible non-performance of your responsibilities on my account was your November 4, 1998, submission of a request to my employer asking that it complete

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an "attached form" but failing to attach the form. Your request, however, was identical to one previously submitted, replied to by the treasurer of our company on August 17, 1998, although you ignored her reply. She has resubmitted the form, completed, to you under date of November 24, 1998, but I fully expect you to ignore her reply once more.

Your stationery identifies yourself as a "Data Match Contractor." What data are you trying to match? It is quite true that at one time our company had about 320 employees, but that was about 1983, fifteen years ago. Substantial business reverses have long reduced us to a company of fewer than 20 employees, and Medicare, at least, has at last recognized that this is true. You appear to be determined never to accept it.

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of senior citizens whose lives you are undoubtedly making miserable, and having ties both to Florida and South Carolina, I am sending a copy of this letter and appropriate documentation to Senators Bob Graham of Florida and Strom Thurmond of South Carolina.

With my worst possible wishes for your continued existence as an agency of the U. S. government, or as a contractor for an agency of the U. S. government, I remain

Very truly yours,



Melvin A. Fechter
Executive Vice President and
General Counsel

MAF/rl

cc: Senator Bob Graham
State of Florida
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Senator Strom Thurmond
State of South Carolina
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510